Course Number and Title: ENGL 1010-13 “English I: Composition”

Semester/Year: Fall 2006

Lecture Hours: 3  Lab Hours: 0  Credit Hours: 3

Class Time: 12:00-12:50 p.m.  Days: MWF  Room: AD 284

Instructor’s Name: Cara Rodriq  Phone: 472-5232

Mailbox: AD 287  Office Hours: By appointment

Email: crodriquez@caspercollege.edu

Course Description: A study of the fundamentals of purposeful communication in English. The course focuses on reading and writing expository essays, on using effective language for exposition of ideas, and on using thinking clearly. Students are to practice synthesizing information, organizing it coherently, and writing clearly.

Course Overview: There is a wide focus to this course. From learning how to write descriptively and acquiring a knowledge of rhetoric to learning to stretch your own boundaries and questioning the beliefs that you bring to this class, the point is not only to learn to write clear, persuasive prose that engages the reader, but also to stretch yourself. This composition classroom will not only attempt to help you better your grammar and punctuation skills, but will also help you to draw connections between literature and your own life that will allow you to communicate and take productive actions in the communities around you. We can study literature and writing all that we want to, and we can love it or hate it, but it is ultimately pointless if we cannot put it to good use in our own lives.

Method: Throughout the course you will be asked to share your writing with your classmates through peer review and discussion of your work and thoughts. You will also be expected to work on specific problem areas through individual consultations with a writing center tutor or me. Class meetings will consist of in-class reading and writing exercises, peer review, discussions of readings, and small group activities. I am going to push you in ways that make you uncomfortable. I am going to ask you to question the things that you believe. I promise that it’s not simply sadistic (though I’m certain it will feel like it is at times). This class will help you to learn to think in ways that will allow you not only to write the best papers you possibly can (not just for this class, but for all your classes), but also to better understand the people around you.

Assignments and Grading: YOU earn your grade for English 1010. It is your responsibility. You are the one who attends and participates in class and completes assignments. You do not get an A simply because you paid for the course. I am here to guide you and assist you in the learning process. The grading system is as follows:
Midterm Portfolio _______________________________________________________ 20%
Final Portfolio _________________________________________________________ 40%
Process and Participation (after every 3 unexcused absences will drop this grade one full letter) Drafts, short writing assignments, peer reviews, notes, class discussion, etc. 20%
Compassion / Perspective Project or Reading Project __________________________ 20%

Required text: The Allyn & Bacon Guide to Writing (GW)

Attendance Policy: Class attendance is crucial. In order for this class to be successful you must be participating in class discussion and be responsible to your classmates. There will be many days that you will be reviewing your classmates’ papers. It is inconvenient to have to track you down in order for a paper exchange to be made. It is also inconvenient for me to have to email you assignments you’ve missed … so I’m not going to. If you are not in class and have not let me know beforehand, I will not give you the assignment. I strongly suggest that you get the email addresses and phone numbers of at least two other people in the class so that they can give you the assignment for the day. After you’ve acquired the assignment, I do not have a problem clarifying it for you if you have questions, but do not ask me, “Did I miss anything?” The answer is “yes.” You have one emergency freebie in which you can come to me later to get the assignment (though you will still be responsible to hand it in on time). Other than that, you are responsible for all assignments given during a class and all discussion that took place in that class whether you were there or not. If you know ahead of time that you will be gone for some reason (vacation, sports trips, etc.) see me ahead of time so that your assignments can be completed before you leave … this will help me so that your assignments can be graded along with everyone else’s, and this will help you so that you don’t have to be worrying about homework you have to finish while you are out of town. Assignments are due on the dates specified. Anything handed in late will be docked one full letter grade for each day it is late unless you have made arrangements with me ahead of time or have an authorized excuse. Yes, if it is late over a weekend it will be docked two full letter grades.

Even if you tell me that you will be gone beforehand, you have only three free absences before your grade is lowered. To authorize your absence, you need an excuse from Student Life / Student Health. Go there. It’s worth the short walk. Don’t waste sick absences as freebies. Use your freebies for ski trips and other random “I’ve-just-got-to-get-away-from-school” moments. But do remember to tell me before you skip class. I’m not entirely unsympathetic to the need for a spontaneous road-trip to Denver … Tell me before you go, get your assignment, and then have fun.

Last date to change to audit status: See Casper College Catalog.

Last date to withdrawal with a “W” grade: See Casper College Catalog.

Student rights & responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information covering your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor in order to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution
offered by the instructor, you should then take your problem through the appropriate chain of command starting with the department head, then the division chair, and lastly the vice president for academic affairs.

**Plagiarism:** Presenting the work or ideas of another as your own is unacceptable. If you engage in academic dishonesty (including assisting another student in such misrepresentation) the university may assess serious penalties against you. Please, PLEASE, PLEASE ask if you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism or how to credit a source.

**Academic dishonesty - Cheating and plagiarism:** Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct.

**ADA accommodations policy:** It is the policy of Casper College to provide accommodations to any student with a documented disability. If you have a need for accommodation in this course, please make an appointment to see me at your earliest convenience.

Please discuss with me any question you have regarding any of these extremely important policies.

**Cell Phones:** Don’t bring them to class or turn them off before class begins … the same goes for any other electronic equipment – mini televisions, beepers, etc. The first time class is disrupted because of your cell phone, etc., it’s a freebie. After that, you will be assigned a one-page essay on a topic of my choice that will be due the following class period.